



**JUSTICE CABINET
DEPARTMENT OF
JUVENILE JUSTICE
POLICY AND PROCEDURES**

REFERENCES:
505 KAR 1:120
3-JTS-4C-27, 28, 41; 5C-06
3-JDF-4C-26, 27, 39; 5B-05
3-JCRF-4C-14, 15; 5C-03
1-JBC-4C-27, 28; 5C-07
NCCHC Y-E-08

CHAPTER: Health and Safety Services	AUTHORITY: KRS 15A.065
SUBJECT: Mental Health Emergencies	
POLICY NUMBER: DJJ 405.5	
TOTAL PAGES: 2	
EFFECTIVE DATE: 4/4/2014	
APPROVAL: A. Hasan Davis	, COMMISSIONER

I. POLICY

Mental health emergency care shall be available 24 hours a day, seven days per week by direct employment or by contract for services.

II. APPLICABILITY

This policy shall apply to group homes and youth development centers and shall govern the actions of detention centers in complying with applicable sections of DJJPP Chapter 7 (Suicide Prevention and Intervention).

III. DEFINITIONS

Refer to Chapter 400.

IV. PROCEDURES

A. PROTOCOL FOR DEALING WITH MENTAL HEALTH EMERGENCIES

1. In the event of a mental health emergency, the facility worker shall first ensure the safety of the youth. If medical issues predominate, emergency medical services shall be provided and the youth determined to be medically stable prior to proceeding with mental health issues.
2. An incident may be considered an emergency if the youth demonstrates danger to self or others, has evidence of an injury or is agitated to the point of not having self-control. At times a situation may arise in which urgent action is necessary. Staff shall monitor the youth in order to maintain safety as the notification process proceeds.
3. In youth development centers the Qualified Mental Health Professional (QMHP) shall assess the situation, either by phone or after a visit to the facility, and determine a course of action. The QMHP may elect to notify the psychiatrist or Regional Psychologist for consultation in determining the course of action. The QMHP shall inform the Superintendent of the planned interventions.

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4. In detention centers and group homes, the Superintendent or designee shall assess the situation and may elect to notify the Regional Psychologist or contract mental health provider for consultation in determining a course of action. See DJJPP Chapter 4 (Suicide Prevention/Intervention) for levels of precaution.
- B. Each program shall prepare a plan to provide emergency mental health care by outlining the necessary actions to be taken by staff in the following situations:
 1. Use of an emergency medical vehicle;
 2. Use of one or more designated hospital emergency department(s) or appropriate mental health facilities;
 3. Emergency on-call medical and mental health services;
 4. On-site emergency first aid and crisis intervention; and
 5. Security procedures that provide for the emergency transfer of youth when appropriate.
 6. Procedures for notification of a transfer to the court the next business day.

V. MONITORING MECHANISM

Monitoring shall be accomplished by the Chief of Mental Health Services or designee(s), the Quality Assurance Branch, and the Division of Program Services.